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Students protest at CIA talk

by LISA RYAN
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When recruiters from the Central Intelligence Agency came to OU Tuesday, Jonathan Sowash was ready with trench coat and sunglasses.

But when Sowash, a People for Peace member, entered Baker Center Ballroom for a CIA presentation, he wasn't looking for a job.

Sowash and two other People for Peace members came to the University-sponsored International Recruitment Fair to protest the CIA's actions overseas.

"We want to implant a grain of doubt in the students who are interested in the CIA, just tell them to check it out," said People for Peace member Ron Nippert.

For some students the CIA may have glamorous connotations, said Jan Griesinger.

"They recruit saying, 'See the world.' They play on our sense of adventure—the kind of cops and robbers you play as kids. But this is for keeps," Griesinger said.

The three said they were protesting both international and domestic CIA actions.

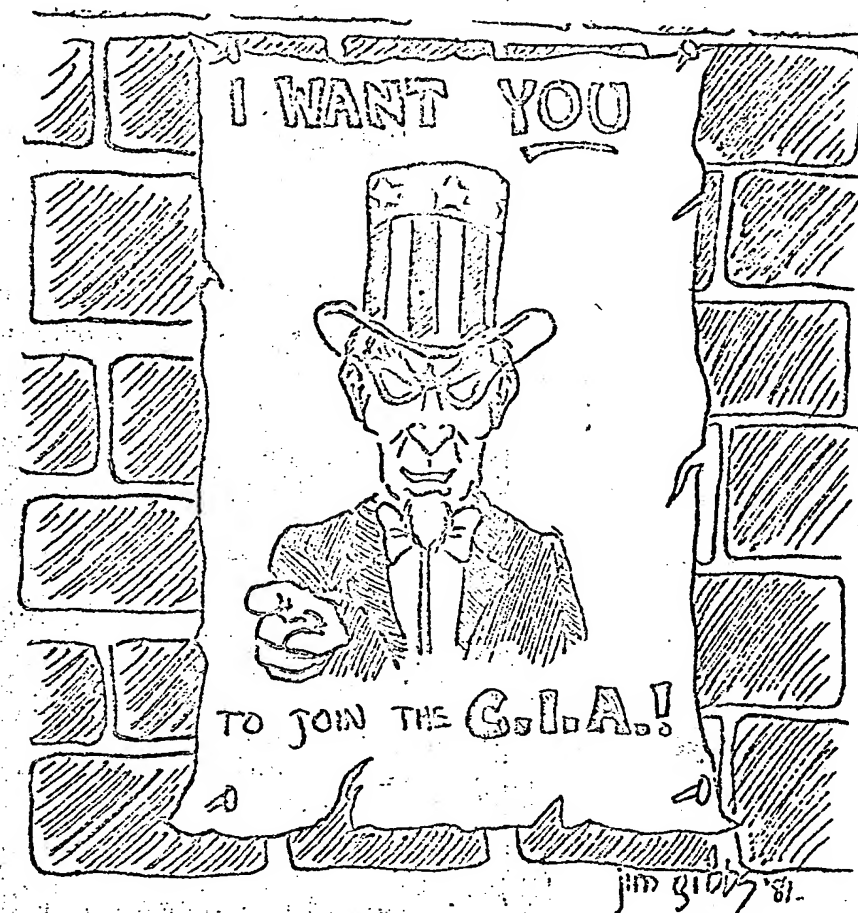
"The CIA's purpose is to put down the Third World and support repressive regimes," Nippert said.

He carried a placard saying: Ask the CIA about Chile, Iran and Cuba and about what is moral.

CIA personnel representative Steve Gunn said the three-person protest was the first he had encountered in his recruiting career.

"It was the biggest protest I've ever seen, actually the only one I've ever seen. Maybe there were more in the early '70s," Gunn said.

Gunn, who works out of an office



in Cincinnati, was in town to interview University students interested in a CIA career.

"We're like any employer. We use advertising to say what the CIA has to offer," Gunn said.

The CIA is interested in students with backgrounds in computer science, engineering and other technical areas, as well as international relations or a foreign language, Gunn said.

Security checks are run on a potential employee to see if the person has connections with foreign governments, Gunn said.

"We don't want a foreign govern-

ment to have a hold on the person," Gunn said.

Connections with foreign governments include foreign-born parents or spouse, he added.

Between 80 and 100 students attended the International Recruitment Fair, which also included information on the Peace Corps, Proctor and Gamble and Catholic Relief Services.

Although the CIA 'protest' was small and low-keyed, Griesinger said the group achieved its purpose.

"Students noticed we were here. They're aware of what the CIA is doing," she said.